



FEMA

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## DISASTER NEWS

Contact:  
Mark Wesley – MS/EMD (517) 333-5023  
FEMA News Desk - (517) 324-3393

### DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER CLOSES IN NILES

**EAST LANSING, Michigan** – Federal and state officials announced today that the Disaster Recovery Center operating in Niles will close at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 20. The center will be in operation 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday July 18 through Tuesday, July 20 to provide assistance to disaster victims from the May 20-24 storms.

The location of the center is South County Building, 1205 N. Front St., Niles, MI.

Those affected by the disaster who still have questions about assistance or low-interest disaster loans can still call the toll-free application line – **1-800-621-FEMA or TTY 1-800-462-7585** – for assistance.

Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer Larry Bailey of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) noted that “Help with questions on federal and state disaster assistance is just a phone call away. Operators at the FEMA toll-free number are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday to help with many of the questions that were brought to us at the recovery center.”

The center was established to provide detailed program information to those who have already applied for assistance. In addition to FEMA Human Services personnel and SBA loan officers, disaster recovery specialists staff the centers to answer questions and provide information on recovery, restoration and rebuilding. The center primarily provided services to disaster victims in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph counties.

August 30 is the deadline to apply for assistance by calling the FEMA toll-free application number at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**. There is also a special toll-free number for the speech- or hearing-impaired, (TTY) 1-800-462-7585.

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*On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.*